

Loch of Clunie Preservation Group (LCPG) meeting

Tuesday 30th September 2025, 7PM, at Clunie Hall

Summary of what was achieved in 2025 will be fully listed and available on the website.

There were meetings to understand police can do, and the role of the council as well as NatureScot. Discussion over the Loch's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and what this meant in relation to byelaws. Awareness campaign through newspapers, television and radio. Communications through Visitor Management and Scottish Land and Estates.

Summary of Perth and Kinross Visitor Management (VM) over the year:

Visitor Rangers are on zero hours contracts. VM would prefer more of a fixed term seasonal contract for reliable staffing.

Due to a huge volume of waste Rangers have keys and access numbers to the recycling centres. The council now employ a fly tipping officer, who previously worked in the police for 30 years. Three cases have already gone to the fiscal court.

Every bag of rubbish picked up is recorded onto a sheet and entered into a database which is shared with NatureScot.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and police are limited in what they can do when it is an extreme fire risk. VM are thankful for all their work.

Due to an attempted murder at Loch Tummel there was an increased police presence this year. Unless Loch of Clunie report (via 101 or 999) crimes that occur, then police resources will go elsewhere.

VM are awaiting approval to send an SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) with regards to car camping. The outdoor code does not include motor vehicles and is meant for light tents for a maximum of 3 days. Walking in to a place and camping is what it was intended to permit. Majority of people VM communicated with are car campers. NatureScot could specify a specified distance from the road.

Cairngorms National Park now have a byelaw of no fires and no barbeques, which is directly funded by government. Cairngorms have one police officer and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs have two police employed. It would be good to have police for Perth and Kinross.

Discussed body worn cameras for evidence. Police and the Community Support and Enforcement Officers wear them but not the rangers as they are there for education and engagement.

Frank thanked all the work the LCPG and the local community do in helping them with information and feedback regarding criminality and litter.

Nature Conservation Order:

Due to Loch of Clunie's status as an SSSI it can be protected with a short byelaw of 2 or 3 years with a Nature Conservation Order. NatureScot have the powers to arrange this.

It was highlighted that the Scottish Government made a pledge to increase biodiversity with the commitment to protect 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030 (30 by 30). Protecting Loch of Clunie adds to this.

Members of LCPG and Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) plan to arrange a meeting with Nick Halfhide the CEO of NatureScot. This would be at his base in order to push for an order at Loch of Clunie.

The above needs to be discussed with Murdo Fraser who wrote a letter to Nick Halfhide requesting a meeting in Clunie.

The idea is that this is a phased process with the continued management plan with VM and also organising for a full byelaw while the Conservation Order is in place.

VM have been trying to organise a meeting with representatives of NatureScot and the Access Officer but are having difficulty. Killicrankie, Fincastle and Tummel (KFT) Community Council had a meeting with two different representatives from NatureScot online and so VM will try to arrange a meeting with them.

Police Enforcement:

The byelaws require enforcement and so we need to find out how this may have worked elsewhere. Simon Ovenden with Scottish Land and Estates (Policy Advisor - Access, Visitor Management and Rural Crime) said that Aberdeenshire Council worked with NatureScot at Loch Kinord and effectively policed no tents and fires. The LCPG secretary has asked Simon if there is a contact with regards to how this worked.

Communications with others:

KFT community Council made us aware that NatureScot always have to keep the Outdoor Access Code under review and there is a monitoring form. The following link did not work on the NatureScot website. A contact form has been sent to advise NatureScot of the problem with the electronic monitoring form.

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/act-and-access-code/scottish-outdoor-access-code-visitors-and-land-managers/keeping-it-under-review>

This has highlighted the importance of improving communications with other communities experiencing the same problems such that we can inform each other of developments and solutions.